



MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Committee Meeting

Monday, November 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Library or Zoom

REVISED on 10/30/25

REVISED on 10/31/25

Present: Chair - Skipper Manter, Amy Houghton, Rizwan Malik, Kathryn Shertzer, Jen Cutrer, Robert Lionette
Zoom: Marsha Shufrin, Sarah Murphy*

Staff: Principal - Sean Mulvey, Finance Director - Suzanne Cioffi, Director of Operations - Sam Hart, Assistant Principal - Justine DeOliveria, Director of Special Education - Erinn Fauteux
Zoom: Facilities Director - Jason O'Donnell,

Supt's Office: Superintendent - Richie Smith, School Business Administrator - Mark Friedman, Director of Student Services - Hope MacLeod

Recorder: Rebecca Claussen

*indicates late arrival

Please note: All business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action.

(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity)

I. Welcome - Chair

Chair Skipper Manter called this meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

II. Routine Reports

A. Student Report

1. Student Report of Activities

Nora Motahari and Milo Sullivan, Student body Vice President and President, respectively attended to give an update on student activities. October was a busy month, first quarter grades just closed. The final senior SWEAR happened this past weekend before it was handed over to Juniors. The Credit for Life fair happened, teaching seniors how to be financially responsible, and different types of accounts. The vaccine and clothing drive this weekend in the cafeteria. The HOPE Squad has been launched which is a national club spreading mental health awareness and supporting peer to peer help. The Race & Culture retreat is at the end of this week at the YMCA which helps to educate on certain aspects of racism. There have been a couple of fundraisers for the sophomore class which included some bake sales, and the senior class sold boo bags. NHS applications have been reviewed, and induction for new members is next week. The Student Government is hosting State Representative Thomas Moakley this coming Wednesday. The Seniors are trying to plan a Power Puff game, which has been originally scheduled for November. The Interact Club which is a branch of the rotary club had a crop walk a few weeks ago. Thriftology is working with Clothes To Go on the clothing drive this weekend. The High School View did articles this week about the crickets and about Mr. Mulvey. A new club was launched called Big Brothers & Big Sisters which is a mentor group where high school students are paired with elementary students to do fun activities and to be mentors. Generations club just had its first meeting where students spend time with community members of older generations, they

are always looking for more community participants. Winter sports registration just opened. Girls soccer won their league for the first time. The Football season is over due to health and not having enough team members. Girls soccer won their first playoff game today, 5-1, and boys soccer is currently up 1-0 with the game in progress. Jacoby Light and Macallan Moran won Cape & Islands All Stars for golf. Students' number one concern at this time is the end of the football season, as they had a large fundraiser planned on November 1, 2025. There is also a large number of missing graphing calculators.

Votes Required

2. Student Presentation on Tower Grant Aware and Vote

Katie Becker presented, supported by Kevin McGrath. Katie wrote and received a grant as a current senior. Katie is a member of Best buddies which is an international organization dedicated to producing opportunities for inclusion. Katie moved to the island as a freshman and best buddies is where she integrated herself. Katie learned about celebrating every achievement no matter the size and attended the annual conference this past summer. Amy Houghton reached out to Katie with information about the Tower Grant so Katie was inspired to write the grant, which she was awarded \$15,000 to use towards best buddies. The intention of this grant is to use towards sending participants to the annual conference next year, in addition to having some guest speakers, pizza parties and a friendship walk or dance, with the hopes of inviting other chapters to participate while promoting our school's culture of inclusion. *Jen Cutrer made a motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$15,120, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0*

B. School Building Project Update

Dion Alley presented on behalf of the School Building Committee. The Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) has been selected and will be attending the school building committee meeting scheduled for November 4, 2025, and we are still on track for the December 18, 2025 schematic design submission deadline.

Votes Required

C. Discussion and Vote to Determine which Method to use for the Approval of the School Building Project; either the Island-wide Ballot vote (M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16 (N)) or the Town Meeting Warrant (M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16 (D))

Robert Lionette expressed that this has been a long road but given the understanding of the responsibilities and where they lie, he feels confident in the committee's ability to vote tonight, and move this project forward. Amy Houghton took a moment to say thank you and expressed that she has taken time to speak to members of her town and has seen positive support from both residents and town elected officials. Marsha Shufrin said she will do everything she can to express to her town the importance of this high school building project and the funding through MSBA, as Marsha saw first hand what happened in the town of Tisbury with their building project. Rizwan Malik asked what would happen should the vote be the traditional town vote of 16d and it does not pass, what happens to the MSBA funding, to which Mark Freidman said it would come back to the committee and the school district who would need to request a timeline extension from MSBA, but there is no guarantee they will approve an extension. Additionally Rizwan asked Mark how many times the district applied for the high school project before it was allowed into the program, which Mark indicated recalling 7 or 8 different times in a row. Richie encouraged the committee to remind their communities that this is an island project, not just a town project and that if we just did a minimum update to bring things to code, like the HVAC this would still be a \$190 mil project and without the funding opportunity we have now. The floor was opened up to public comments for statements only, no questions were allowed. *Robert Lionette made a motion to adopt the island wide ballot vote, Chapter 71, section 16n,*

*seconded by Jen Cutrer. Chair Skipper Manter reminded the committee and participants that this is a 2/3's vote. Roll Call: Murphy - Aye, Shufrin - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Mailk - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Nay.
Motion Passes: 7-1-0*

D. MVRHS Financial Advisor Building Project Financing Update, Including Length of Borrowing, Level Debt or Level Principal

Lynn Welsh of Newbank, the district's financial advisor attended the meeting to discuss the potential building project financing, should it be approved by vote. Lynn said that work will be done with Rick Manley from Bond Council, working to have a "green light letter" or "legal opinion" issued. The advisors will work with the OPM on the cash flow analysis to see what the district needs are which will lead to short term notes or bring into the bond market. Rick Manley will work to make sure the vote is done correctly, written correctly, publicized correctly, will meet with the clerks and will review the certified votes and can then render the "green light letter" which will allow to move forward to the bond market. Based on market conditions will determine short term notes or the bond market and what the best structure is for the district. An official statement will need to be prepared to access the market which is a disclosure document to the underwriting firm with island demographics, and financial statements for the district and member towns, which is something that would just need to be updated as this is a document the district already has. The bonds or notes will likely need to have a rating from either Moody's or Standard & Poor for a credit rating. The district has used Moody's in the past but the recommendation would be to use Standard & Poor which would align with what the towns already use. As the market approach comes, the financial advisor will send a detailed calendar with all the target dates that need to be met. This is usually a 3 month process from start to finish. Lynn made a recommendation that given the dollar amount of this project it is best to have a designated school construction account to keep separate from the general district funds, if there is an IRS audit it is more beneficial so that it is easier to identify any interest earnings on the bond proceeds. Typically on projects of this size the bond is for 30 years, either issued by level principal or level debt, with most issuers using a level debt. When the number comes back the advisor will be able to show what each will look like before a decision is made. When you level debt it means that the life of the bond the debt service impact is level, so year to year you don't see a flux in tax rate but the issue with level debt is that you don't retire the debt as fast as the level principal, so your interest expense is somewhat higher. Amy Houghton asked about the timeline with regards to the district wide vote and notifying towns to which Rick Manley said the timeline begins with the date the committee intends to authorize the borrowing which usually occurs shortly after MSBA approves the project but prior to that it does not hurt to reach out to town clerks to let them know what's coming, which Rick Manley can help with. When the committee votes to authorize the debt they generally also set the date of the election as there is no statutory requirement for how far out in the future that needs to be, bearing in mind that ballots will need to order ballots, in a town context it's required to have at least 35 days to order the ballots. The warrant calling the election needs to be posted 10 days before the election, as does publication in the newspaper. In general the meeting with the clerks has occurred on a normal business day with Administration, the Superintendent, and Rick Manley to explain the process and allow for questions and concerns. Skipper Manter requested that information happen sooner rather than later to keep the towns aware as early as possible.

E. Principal

1. General Update

Sean Mulvey discussed the recent school climate survey which is complete and will bring that data to the committee next month, which is administered to Sophomores after MCAS.. The SAC is working to develop the school improvement plan each year, SAC is robust this year with great participation, with one of the goals is updating the facility.

2. Special Education Department Update

Erinn Fauteux took a minute to break down the pairing and support of her department within the classrooms which included additions to staff and many co-teaching classes. Unified Basketball is currently 2-2-1, with one more game at home Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 2:15 pm. Robert did ask about the bilingual support to which Erinn did say that there are a couple co-teaching classes across all departments so it is there but it does not directly overlap with Special Education and ELL so there is no triple staffing in a classroom.

F. Superintendent

1. General Update

Richie Smith spoke about Sean Mulvey and his plans for a continuation of his Principalship as the committee had previously agreed to revisit and start the potential hiring process for a Principal given Sean’s original one year agreement. The process would start towards the end of November with SAC and writing a posting for the high school position. Then post sometime in the 3 weeks between Thanksgiving and the Holiday break, leaving that position posted for about 4 weeks, closing in mid January. Richie also reminded the committee that on Monday November 10 there is an AISC budget meeting.

G. School Building Committee Members

Votes Required

1. Vote to accept resignations of Amira Madison and Donna Bishop from the School Building Committee

Jen Cutrer made a motion to accept the resignation of Amira Madison and Donna Bishop from the School Building Committee, seconded by Amy Houghton. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

2. Approve Durwood Vanderhoop and Erinn Fautuex as School Building Committee Representatives

Jen Cutrer made a motion to approve Durwood Vanderhoop and Erinn Fauteux to the School Building Committee, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0

III. Consents

A. Minutes: z

Votes Required

1. October 6, 2026

Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2025, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

2. October 23, 2025 Joint MVRHSSC & MVRHSSBC

Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2025, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Abstain, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye. Motion Passes: 7-0-1

B. Personnel

Votes Required

1. Prudence Magee Letter

Amy Houghton made a motion to approve the leave of absence for Prudence Magee, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.
Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

C. Grants and Donations

Suzanne Cioffi has a donation from the Darkness into Light in the amount of \$1,250 which is for the HOPE Squad which is a new program at MVRHS. The HOPE Squad is a national organization for suicide prevention and peer to peer program which focuses on friendship, and emotions. The plan is to meet monthly to increase their knowledge and education around suicide prevention which will give them the tools needed to know when to pull a adult in to assist with a peer. The money will be used to purchase swag for tabling events in the cafeteria and to bring more awareness. *Rizwan Malik made a motion to accept the \$1,250, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Roll call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Suzanne Cioffi had one additional donation of \$12,500 worth of gift cards presented to Project Vine from Stop & Shop to assist with some of the Project Vine events. *Jen Cutrer made a motion to accept the \$12,500 in gift cards, seconded by Rizwan Malik. Roll call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

1. Culture Reframed Program Martha's Vineyard Hospital

Suzanne Cioffi has a total of \$20,000 in donations from Mass General Brigham, MV Hospital which is broken into two pieces. \$8,000 will go to the SWEAR program and \$12,000 is to help offset mental health counselors for the district, overseen by Kim Garrison. Amy Lilavois and Jenn Russell attended to speak about a portion of this grant's use in regards to the SWEAR program. A lot of the information from SWEAR comes from an organization called Culture Reframed which is the leading organization that addresses the harmful effects of pornography and hyper sexualization in adolescent kids. They do this with education, prevention and response to the overuse or misuse of pornography by young people. The plan is to use this to create a community wide response by bringing this organization to the island, with plans to have presentations with the 7th and 8th graders if approved, in addition to having a parent and community night. There are also plans to meet with doctors and clinicians on the island, as well as bringing Community Services, Island Healthcare and the Youth Task Force on board. *Jen Cutrer made a motion to accept the \$20,000 grant from Mass General Brigham, seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Abstain, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 7-0-1

Votes Required

2. Goodman Foundation

Suzanne Cioffi received a grant from the Goodman Theatre Foundation, of which \$15,000 goes directly to the Minnesinger Parents Group to assist with covering the costs of students unable to pay for Italy travel this year. *Jen Cutrer made a motion to accept this donation, seconded by Kathryn Shertzer. Skipper asked what would happen to the three students if the donation did not come through, wondering if the school has a scholarship program in place for this to which Suzanne and Sean had already started discussing what would need to be done before the donation arrived. Roll call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

D. Out of State and Overnight Travel

Sean Mulvey had another out of state travel request for the Football Team which is to travel to Brown University on November 8, 2025 to watch a Brown versus Yale Football game, funded by a donor who currently has a family member playing for Yale. This is a day trip but out of state, 4 chaperones for 24 students. Kathryn added to this as it was discussed at the Athletics Subcommittee meeting, expressing how great an opportunity this is, the students will get to meet the team and tour the campus. In addition the Cross Country team won their league and now need to head to the MIAA Divisional Championships in Deerfield, Massachusetts which will be in state but overnight, 10 players and 2 adults, November 7-8, 2025. *Kathryn Shertzer made a motion to approve the College Tours trip, the Football trip and the Cross Country trip, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

1. Culture, Career, and College Travel

Sean Mulvey spoke about this trip which is led by Dhakir Warren and is December 4 through December 7, 2025, with 12 students visiting Howard University, Morgan State and Georgetown. The Legacy Foundation is helping to pay for this trip, travel is through flight and motorcoach with the appropriate amount of chaperones, mixed genders.

Votes Required

2. Project Vine Expeditionary Learning Retreat

Sean Mulvey asked for an exception for this trip as their third chaperone has just lost a family member and is unable to attend. Dhakir Warren is requesting to allow the two remaining chaperones and the staff at Camp Sturgis to make up the remaining chaperone numbers. Camp Sturgis will have 3 overnight staff, plus their director and they are on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the staff already has a CORI through their employer. *Robert Lionette made a motion to allow Project Vines expeditionary learning retreat to waive the chaperone ratios particularly in light of YMCA members being on site, (amended to add) one time only, seconded by Jen Cutrer. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

IV. 7th & 8th Grade Waiver for Swim Team

Sean Mulvey spoke to this annual request to bolster the numbers for the swim team, as it's harder for the team to compete if they don't have each of the events filled which contributes to the overall points, it's a good opportunity and safe environment for the younger students to play at the High School Varsity level. *Jen Cutrer made a motion to grant the waiver for the swim team, seconded to Kathryn Shertzer. Kathryn did express her concern with continuing to have waivers for 7th and 8th grade students participating with high school age students, hoping the coaches and their parents know they are exposing 14 years old to 18 year old kids. Robert seconded that concern, in addition to the complexity of now having an elementary age student having their priority be the high school team and this means they are no longer playing with their peers and that opportunity to grow within that group. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.*

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Votes Required

V. Promotional Building Use Request

Sean Mulvey presented from The Waring Company, who reached out to Kevin Crowell about using the the school as a location to take photographs of their blender, in an institution setting for a new promotion, they would then leave for the school to use either in the Cafeteria or in the Culinary Arts

Kitchen. This would likely only take up to 30 minutes to do and there is no student involvement, nor disruption to the school day. Amy Houghton said there is a new policy under review which relates to promotional space use. Kathryn expressed not being in favor of using the building for promotional materials that a company financially benefits from. Robert Lionette made a motion to approve the promotional shoot as long as there is an absolute commitment that no people (staff or students) be shown, and a prohibition on any name or likeness of the school itself, seconded by Amy Houghton. *Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Nay.*
Motion Passes: 7-1-0

VI. Finance

A. Revenue and Expenditures

Suzanne Cioffi took a moment to send around the expenditure report, and on Friday the Title I Grant was approved as that position is 30% general fund, 70% Title I funded, there will be a journal entry to cover that deficit now that the funds are received. There is also a deficit in the athletics department as there was a change in personnel with some of the coaching staff, and some of those positions are still being filled, and will be adjusted after contracts are done.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

A. Transportation

Mark Friedman gave the update in regards to Transportation, there is a meeting on Thursday, November 6 at 8:30 am should anyone care to join, as the budget will be discussed.

B. Facilities

No update at this time.

C. Athletics

No update at this time.

D. Budget

No update at this time.

VIII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair/Announcements

Amy Houghton took a moment to discuss elementary athletics with regards to feeding those students into the high school programs, and wondered how we could build the middle school programs so that they are stronger and so that we have more after school activities and opportunities. Skipper thought this would be a good topic for the All Island School Committee. Kathryn did say that Mark McCarthy recently expressed records numbers for fall sports, and we have the suggested addition of girls Volleyball. Skipper suggested inviting Mark McCarthy to the All Island School Committee meeting. Robert added there are many other ways to support our students in after school programming, not just athletics and is something that should be revisited again.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Votes Required

X. Adjournment

The recording cut out for the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Robert Lionette. Roll Call: Shufrin - Aye, Murphy - Aye, Lionette - Aye, Cutrer - Aye, Shertzer - Aye, Malik - Aye, Houghton - Aye, Manter - Aye.

Motion Passes: 8-0-0

Appendix A: Documents on File

- 1. Debt Approval Roadmap - Troutman Pepper Locke - October 2025**
- 2. Agenda 2nd REVISED MVRHS SC 11.3.25**
- 3. DRAFT Minutes 2025 10.23 Joint School Committee and School Building Committee**
- 4. II. G. 1. Amira Madison**

5. **II. G. 1. Donna Bishop**
6. **III. A. DRAFT MVRHSSC Minutes 100625**
7. **III. B. 1. Prudence Magee Ittr**
8. **III. C. MVRHS School Committee Grants Memo 11032025**
9. **III. D. 1. Culture, Career, and College Tour Out of State & Overnight Travel Form**
10. **III. D. 2. PV State & Overnight Travel Form**
11. **III. D. Football to Brown**
12. **III. D. XC to States**
13. **IV. A. MVRHS Expenditures**
14. **IV. A. MVRHS Revenue**
15. **UFASI Presentation - MVRSD-School Committee Meeting 11-3-25**

Appendix B: Zoom AI Next Steps

1. **Thomas Moakley: Come to talk to student government and anyone else interested this Wednesday**
2. **Richie, Skipper, and Rick Manley: Schedule and conduct a Zoom meeting with six town clerks to explain the district-wide vote process, timeline, and requirements**
3. **Richie: Report back to the committee on the town clerk meeting by the next meeting**
4. **Sean : Provide school climate survey results to the committee next month**
5. **Sean and Justine: Update the committee on the School Advisory Council and school improvement plan later**
6. **Sean : Speak with Sean Moley about conditions for continuing as principal beyond one year**
7. **Sean : If needed, post principal position in the three weeks between Thanksgiving and holiday break, with application window closing mid-January**
8. **Erin Fodo and team: Organize Culture Reframed speakers visit including SWARE assembly, parent/community night, teacher PD, and potential middle school presentations**
9. **Mark McCarthy: Come to All Island meeting to discuss athletics and middle school athletic programs**
10. **Committee: Vote on adding girls volleyball as a varsity sport for fall 2026 at a future meeting**
11. **Committee: Schedule All Island School Committee meeting on November 10th at 5:30 PM to discuss budget**

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Claussen

Date of Approval of Minutes: December 1, 2025